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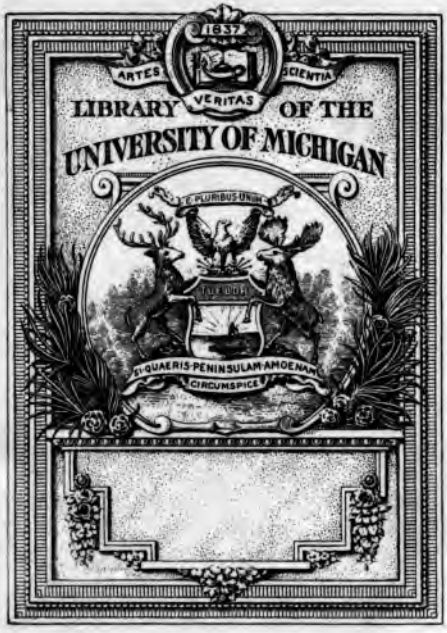
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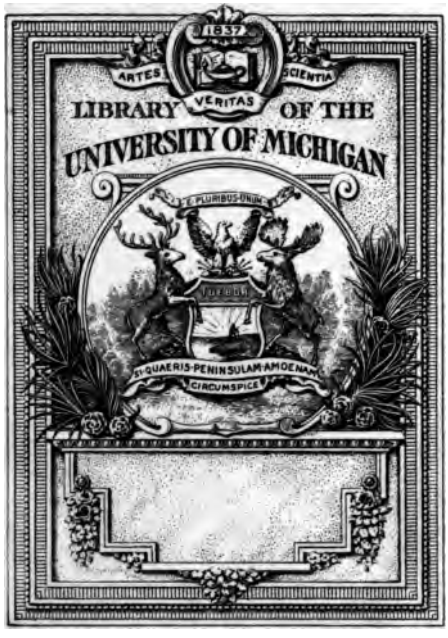
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PETER'S JOURNAL

OF THE

FIRST PRESIDENTIAL COUNT

AND

Washington's Inauguration

SHOWING HOW

VICE-PRESIDENT ADAMS

GOT AHEAD IN THE CEREMONY

EDITED BY "HISTORICUS"

NEW YORK
PRINTED FOR THE PROPRIETOR AND FOR SALE BY ALL RESPECTABLE BOOKSELLERS AND NEWSDEALERS
1885
(PRICE 10 CENTS)

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PETER'S JOURNAL

OF

Washington's First Inauguration.

This sixth day of April, 1789, there being a quorum of both houses of Congress of the United States in session in the city of New York, John Langdon, a Senator from New Hampshire, was chosen President of the Senate for the purpose of counting the votes for President and Vice President, after which the ballots of the electors of the several States were respectively opened and examined. By this examination it was found that the whole number of votes was sixty-nine, of which His Excellency George Washington had all, and was unanimously elected President, and the Honorable John Adams had thirty-four, and was elected Vice-President. After the canvassing was concluded, His Excellency George Washington was proclaimed President, and the Honorable John Adams Vice-President of the United States. Charles Thomson, Esq., who had been Secretary of previous Congresses was then appointed to inform the President, and Mr. Sylvanus Bourne to inform the Vice-President of their respective elections, with all expedition. These gentlemen will depart on the important embassy early

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to-morrow morning—one for Virginia, the other on the road to Boston. It is reasonably expected that their Excellencies will arrive at New York within a fortnight.

Tuesday, April 7, 1789:—A superb barge is now being built, elegantly decorated and prepared to receive the beloved soldier and statesman at Elizabeth Town Point and to conduct him to the end of his journey. The plan of operation laid down for the escort of His Excellency from Philadelphia is as follows: The Philadelphia troop is to conduct him to Trenton, the Hunterdon horse to Rocky Hill, the Somerset horse to Brunswick, the Middlesex horse to Woodbridge, and the Essex horse to the barge. It is hoped that on this joyful occasion the countenance of every friend to his country may bespeak pleasure, and that our enemies, if there are any amongst us, will not have the audacity to even look upon his person.

Wednesday, April 15, 1789:—In the House of Representatives, Mr. Egbert Benson, of New York, from the committee appointed to confer with a committee of the Senate upon the subject of arrangements for the reception of the President and Vice-President, reported that Mr. Osgood, the proprietor of the house lately occupied by the President of Congress, be requested to put the same and the furniture thereof in proper condition for the residence and use of the President of the United States, and otherwise, at the expense of the United States, to provide for his temporary accommoda-

tion. Also, that it will be most eligible in the first instance, that a committee of three members for the Senate and five for the House of Representatives, to be appointed by the houses respectively, attend to receive the President, at such place as he shall embark at from New Jersey for New York, and conduct him without form to the house lately occupied by the President of Congress.

Monday, April 20, 1789:—Amidst the acclamations of all ranks of citizens, His Excellency John Adams, Esq., Vice-President of the United States, arrived in New York. The cavalcade which escorted His Excellency into the city was numerous and truly respectable. From the Connecticut line to Kingsbridge he was attended by the light horse of West Chester County under the command of Major Pintard. At Kingsbridge, he was met by General Malcom with the officers of his brigade and the city troop of horse commanded by Captain Stakes; also, by officers of distinction, many members of Congress and a large number of citizens in carriages and on horseback. While passing the Fort a federal salute was fired. His Excellency alighted at the home of the Honorable John Jay, Esq., in Broadway, where the committee of both houses of Congress, appointed for that purpose, attended to congratulate His Excellency on his arrival.

Tuesday, April 21:—A committee of the Senate, consisting of Mr. Caleb Strong, of Massachusetts, and Mr. Ralph Izard, of South Carolina, conducted the Vice-President to the Senate Chamber, where

Mr. Langdon, the President *pro tempore*, left the chair and, addressing the Vice-President, said "That he had it in charge from the Senate to introduce him to the chair of the house and to congratulate him on his appointment to the office of Vice-President of the United States of America." He then conducted the Vice-President to the chair, who addressed the Senate to the following purport:

Gentlemen of the Senate:—"Invited to this respectable situation by the suffrages of our fellow-citizens, according to the Constitution, I have thought it my duty cheerfully and readily to accept it. Unaccustomed to refuse any public service, however dangerous to my reputation or disproportioned to my talents, it would have been inconsistent to have adopted another maxim of conduct at this time, when the prosperity of the country and the liberties of the people require perhaps as much as ever the attention of those who possess any share of the public confidence.

"I should be destitute of sensibility if, upon my arrival in this city and presentation to this Legislature, and especially to this Senate, if I could see without emotion so many of those characters of whose virtuous exertions I have so often been a witness; from whose countenances and examples I have ever derived encouragement and animation; whose disinterested friendship has supported me in many intricate conjunctures of public affairs at home and abroad. Those celebrated defenders of the liberties of this country, whom menaces could not intimidate, corruption seduce, nor flattery allure; those intrepid asserters of the rights of mankind, whose philosophy

and policy have enlightened the world in twenty years more than it was ever before enlightened in many centuries by ancient schools or modern universities.

"I must have been inattentive to the course of events if I were either ignorant of the same or insensible to the merit of those other characters in the Senate to whom it has been my misfortune to have been, hitherto, personally unknown.

"It is with satisfaction that I congratulate the people of America on the formation of a National Constitution, and the fair prospect of a consistent administration of a government of laws: On the acquisition of a House of Representatives chosen by themselves, of a Senate thus composed by their own State legislatures, and on the prospect of an executive authority in the hands of one whose portrait I shall not presume to draw. Were I blessed with powers to do justice to his character it would be impossible to increase the confidence or affection of his country or make the smallest addition to his glory. This can only be effected by a discharge of the present exalted trust on the same principles, with the same abilities and virtues which have uniformly appeared in all his former conduct, public or private. May I nevertheless be indulged to inquire, if we look over the catalogue of the first magistrates of nations, whether they have been denominated Presidents or Consuls, Kings or Princes, where shall we find one whose commanding talents and virtues, whose overruling good fortune have so completely united all hearts and voices in his favor? Who enjoyed the esteem and admiration of foreign

nations and fellow-citizens with equal unanimity? Qualities so uncommon are no common blessing to the country that possesses them. By those great qualities, and being their effects, has Providence marked out the head of this nation with an hand so distinctly visible as to have been seen by all men and mistaken by none.

"It is not for me to interrupt your deliberations by any general observations on the state of the nation, or by recommending or proposing any particular measures. It would be superfluous to gentlemen of your great experience to urge the necessity of order. It is only necessary to make an apology for myself. Not wholly without experience in public assemblies, I have been more accustomed to take a share in their debates than to preside in their deliberations. It shall be my constant endeavor to behave towards every member of this honorable body with all that consideration, delicacy and decorum which becomes the dignity of his station and character. But if from inexperience or inadvertency anything should ever escape me inconsistent with propriety, I must entreat you, by imputing it to its true cause, and not to any want of respect, to pardon and excuse it.

"A trust of the greatest magnitude is committed to this legislature—and the eyes of the world are upon you. Your country expects, from the results of your deliberations, in concurrence with the other branches of government, consideration abroad and contentment at home—prosperity, order, justice, peace and liberty. And may God Almighty's providence assist you to answer their just expectations."

Wednesday, April 22, 1789:—Charles Thomson, who was despatched by Congress on the 7th of April, reached Mount Vernon on the 14th and officially informed General Washington of his election, who immediately commenced his journey to New York, receiving upon his route addresses and other evidences of welcome at every principal place he passed through.

On the morning of the 18th, His Excellency Thomas Mifflin, Esq., President of Pennsylvania, the Hon. Richard Peters, Esq., Speaker of the Legislature, and the old City troop of horse commanded by Colonel Niles, proceeded from Philadelphia as far as the line of Delaware, "under the pleasing expectation of meeting our beloved WASHINGTON, President-General of the United States. We were, however, disappointed," says one of the party, "as he did not arrive at the line till early the next morning, when we were joined by another troop from the city commanded by Captain Bingham. After paying him the tribute of military honor due to his rank and exalted character by proper salutes and otherwise, we escorted him into Chester, where we breakfasted and rested perhaps a couple of hours."

"This great and worthy man, finding he could not elude the parade which necessarily must attend manifestations of joy and affection, when displayed by a grateful people to their patriot benefactor, ordered his carriages into the rear of the whole line, and mounted an elegant horse, accompanied by the venerable patriot Charles Thomson, Esq., and his former Aid-de-Camp, the celebrated Col. Humphries,

both of whom were also on horseback. On our way to the city we were joined by detachments from the Chester and Philadelphia troops of horse, commanded by Captains McDowell and Thomson, and also by a number of respectable citizens at whose head was the citizen and soldier, His Excellency Arthur St. Clair, Esq., Governor of the Western territory. Thus we proceeded to Mr. Grey's bridge on Schuylkill, observing the strictest order and regularity during the march. But here such a scene presented itself that even the pencil of a Raphael could not delineate. The bridge was highly decorated with laurel and other evergreens, by Mr. Grey himself, the ingenious artist Mr. Peale, and others, in such a style as to display uncommon taste in these gentlemen. At each end there were erected magnificent arches composed of laurel, emblematical of the ancient triumphal arches used by the Romans, and on each side of the bridge a laurel shrubbery, which seemed to challenge even Nature herself for simplicity, ease and elegance. And as our beloved Washington passed the bridge a lad beautifully ornamented with sprigs of laurel, assisted by a certain machinery, let drop above the Hero's head, unperceived by him, a civic crown of laurel. There was also a very elegant display of variegated flags, on each side of the bridge, as well as other places, which alternately caught the eye and filled the spectator's soul with admiration and delight.

"But who can describe the heartfelt gratulation of more than twenty thousand free citizens, who lined every fence, field and avenue between the bridge and the city. The aged sire, the venerable matron,

the blooming virgin and the ruddy youth were all emulous in their plaudits. Nay! the lisping infant did not withhold its innocent smile of praise and approbation. In short, all classes and descriptions of citizens discovered (and they felt what they discovered) the most undisguised attachment and unbounded zeal for their dear chief, and I may add under God, the Savior of their country. Not all the pomp of majesty, not even imperial dignity itself surrounded with its usual splendor and magnificence could equal this interesting scene.

"On approaching near the city our illustrious chief was highly gratified with a further military display of infantry, commanded by Capt. James Rees, and artillery, commanded by Capt. Jeremiah Fisher, two active and able officers. And here I must not omit to give due praise to that worthy veteran, Major Fullerton, for his zeal, activity and good conduct on this occasion. The corps joined the procession and thousands of freemen, whose hearts burned with patriotic fire, also fell into the ranks almost every square we marched until the column swelled beyond amaze, and raptures of a grateful people broke forth in such emphatical expressions as Long Live George Washington, the Father of the People!" An elegant entertainment of two hundred and fifty covers, prepared for His Excellency by the citizens, was celebrated at the City Tavern, at which a number of toasts were drank, attended by the discharge of ordnance, and a band of music. Two ships in the Delaware were handsomely dressed. A variety of addresses, from classes, judicial, civil, military and maritime, were presented to His Excellency expres-

sive of the occasion. To which His Excellency was pleased to return respective replies couched in terms which indicate that the first chair in the Union will be ornamented with the essence of republican virtues—dignified humility. "How excellent is glory when earned by virtue!" How different is power when derived from its only just source, the people —from that which is derived from hereditary succession! The first magistrates of the nations of Europe assume the titles of Gods and treat their subjects like an inferior race of animals. Washington delights to show that he is a man, and, instead of assuming the pomp of master, acts as if he considered himself the friend of the people.

On the morning of the 21st, His Excellency continued his journey through New Jersey, and about three o'clock was conducted into Trenton by civil and military and an admiring concourse. Trenton has been twice memorable during the war; once by the capture of the Hessians, and again by the repulse of the whole British army in their attempt to cross the bridge, the evening before the battle of Princeton. Recollecting these memorable circumstances, the ladies of Trenton formed a design and carried it into execution, solely under their direction, to testify to His Excellency, by the celebration of these actions, the grateful sense they retained of the safety and protection afforded by him to the daughters of New Jersey. A triumphal arch was raised on the bridge, twenty feet wide, supported by thirteen pillars. The center of the arch from the ground was about twenty feet. Each pil-

lar was entwined with wreaths of evergreen. The arch, which extended about twelve feet along the bridge, was covered with laurel and decorated on the inside with evergreens and flowers. On the front of the arch, or that side to which His Excellency approached, was the following inscription in large gilt letters: "The Defender of the Mothers will be the Protector of the Daughters." The upper and lower sides of this inscription were ornamented with wreaths of evergreens and artificial flowers of all kinds, made for the purpose, beautifully interspersed. On the center of the arch, above the inscription, was a dome or cupola of flowers and evergreens, encircling the dates of those glorious actions inscribed in large gilt letters. The summit of the dome displayed a large sunflower, which, pointing to the sun, was designed to express the sentiment or motto, "To You Alone," as emblematic of the unparalleled unanimity of sentiment in the millions of the United States.

A numerous train of ladies, leading their daughters at their hands, assembled at the arch thus to thank their Defender and Protector. As His Excellency passed under the arch he was addressed in the following sonata, composed and set to music for the occasion, and sung by a number of young misses dressed in white and crowned with wreaths and chaplets of flowers:—

Welcome! mighty chief, once more,
Welcome to this grateful shore;
Now no mercenary foe
Aims again the fatal blow—
    Aims at thee the fatal blow.

Virgins fair, and matrons grave,
Those thy conq'ring arms did save
Build for thee triumphal bowers.
Strew, ye fair, his way with flowers—
Strew your Hero's way with flowers.

Each of the singers held a basket in their hands, filled with flowers, which, when they sung, "Strew your Hero's way with flowers," they scattered before him.

His Excellency being presented with a copy of the sonata, was pleased to address the following card to the ladies:

To the ladies of Trenton, who were assembled on the 21st day of April, 1789, at the Triumphal Arch erected by them on the bridge which extends across Assanpinck Creek:

"General Washington cannot leave this place without expressing his acknowledgements to the matrons and young ladies who received him in so novel and grateful a manner at the Triumphal Arch in Trenton, for the exquisite sensations he experienced in that affecting moment. The astonishing contrast between his former and actual condition at the same spot—the elegant taste with which it was adorned for the present occasion, and the innocent appearance of the *white-robed choir*, who met him with the gratulatory song, have made such an impression on his remembrance, as he assures them, will never be effaced."

Wednesday, April 23, 1789:—At Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, His Excellency was received by a deputation of three Senators and five Representatives of

the United States and three officers of the State and Corporation, with whom he embarked on the barge built for the purpose of wafting him across the bay. Thirteen pilots in white uniform rowed this barge, Thomas Randall, Esq., acting as cockswain. It is impossible to do justice in an attempt to describe the scene exhibited on His Excellency's approach to New York. Innumerable multitudes thronged the shores, the wharves and the shipping, waiting with pleasing anticipation his arrival. His Catholic Majesty's sloop of war, the Galviston, the ship North Carolina, belonging to Arnold H. Dolhman, Esq., and other vessels were dressed, manned and highly decorated. His Excellency's barge was accompanied by several other barges, in one of which was the Honorable the Board of Treasury, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Secretary at War, besides a long train of vessels and boats from New Jersey and New York. As he passed the Galviston she fired a salute of thirteen guns. The ship North Carolina and the Battery also welcomed his approach with the same number. In one of the sloops which composed the little fleet that attended His Excellency's barge, there were a number of ladies and gentlemen who sung several sweet and delightful airs, and in particular an ode composed for the occasion with all its parts in full chorus. The voices of the ladies were as much superior to the flutes that played to the stroke of the oars in Cleopatra's silken corded barge, as the very superior and glorious water scene of New York bay exceeds the silver Cydnus in all its pride. With rapture one might dwell upon this interesting subject, and wander into the

fields of fancy for expressions to paint the various and delightful appearances that vied with each other, at the same time to welcome the great and illustrious man to our now happy city.

ODE.

Sung on the arrival of the President of the United States.

Tune:—"God Save," &c.

COMPOSED BY MR. L * *.

HAIL thou the auspicious day !
Far let America
Thy praise resound,
Joy to our native land !
Let every heart expand,
For Washington 's at hand,
With Glory crown'd.

Thrice blest Columbians hail!
Behold, before the gale,
Your Chief advance ;
The matchless Hero 's nigh!
Applaud *him* to the sky,
Who gave you Liberty,
With gen'rous France.

Illustrious Warrior hail!
Oft did thy sword prevail
O'er hosts of foes;
Come and fresh laurels claim,
Still dearer make thy name,
Long as immortal fame
Her trumpet blows!

Thrice welcome to this shore,
Our Leader now no more;
But Ruler thou;
Oh truly good and great!
Long live to glad our State,
Where countless honors wait
To deck thy brow.

Far be the din of arms,
Henceforth the Olive's charms
Shall War preclude;
These shores a Head shall own,
Unsullied by a throne,
Our much-loved Washington,
The Great, the Good.

On His Excellency's arrival at the stairs at Murray's wharf, prepared and ornamented for his landing, he was saluted by Captain Van Dyck's artillery, and received and congratulated by His Excellency Governor Clinton, and the officers of the State and Corporation, after which a procession of military and other distinguished personages, followed by an immense concourse of citizens, moved through Queen street to the house prepared for the reception of the President, from whence he was conducted without form to the Governor's, where he dined.

This great occasion has arrested the public attention beyond all power of description. The hand of industry has been suspended and the various pleasures of the Capital are concentrated to a single enjoyment. All ranks and professions express their feelings in loud acclamations and with rapture hail the arrival of the Father of His Country. The city has been illuminated this evening, the transparent paintings in various quarters doing great honor to the ingenuity and public spirit of the parties concerned in their exhibition.

Thursday, April 30, 1789 :—The inauguration of the President of the United States was solemnized to-day. At nine o'clock, the people assembled in the various churches, with the clergy of the respec-

tive denominations, to implore the blessings of Heaven upon the new Government, its favor and protection to the President, and success and acceptance to his administration. At noon, the procession moved from the home of the President, in Cherry Street, through Queen, Great-Dock and Broad Streets, to Congress Hall, in the following order:

COL. LEWIS and two Officers.
CAPT. STAKES, Troop of Horse.
Artillery—MAJOR VAN HORNE.
Grenadiers under CAPT. HARSIN.
German Grenadiers under CAPT. SCRIBA.
MAJOR BICKER—Infantry—MAJOR CHRISTIE.
Sheriff on Horseback.
Committee of the Senate.
The President and Suite with assistants and Civil Officers on either side.
Committee of the Representatives.
HON. MR. JAY, GEN. KNOX, CHANCELLOR LIVINGSTON,
And several gentlemen of distinction.

When within a proper distance of the hall, the troops formed a line on both sides of the way. The President, passing through, was conducted into the Senate Chamber and introduced to both houses of Congress. Immediately after, accompanied by the two houses, he was conducted into the gallery adjoining the Senate Chamber and fronting Broad Street, which was decorated with a canopy and curtains of red interstreaked with white for the solemn occasion. There, in the presence of an immense concourse of citizens, the oath prescribed by the Constitution was administered to him by the Hon. R. R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York. The Chancellor then proclaimed him President of the United States, which was followed

by the instant discharge of thirteen cannon and loud repeated shouts. The President bowing to the people, the air then rang with acclamations. He then retired with the two houses to the Senate Chamber, where he delivered the following speech:

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate and of the House of Representatives.

Among the vicissitudes incident to life, no event could have filled me with greater anxieties than that of which the notification was transmitted by your order, and received on the 14th day of the present month. On the one hand I was summoned by my country, whose voice I can never hear but with veneration and love, from a retreat which I had chosen with the fondest predilection, and in my flattering hopes, with an immutable decision, as the asylum of my declining years. A retreat which was rendered every day more necessary as well as more dear to me, by addition of habit to inclination and of frequent interruptions in health, to the gradual waste committed on it by time. On the other hand the magnitude and difficulty of the trust to which the voice of my country called me, being sufficient to awaken the wisest and most experienced of her citizens, a distrustful scrutiny into his qualifications, could not but overwhelm with despondence, one, who, inheriting inferior endowments from nature, and unpracticed in the duties of civil administration, ought to be peculiarly conscious of his own deficiencies. In this conflict of emotions, all I dare aver is that it has been my faithful study to collect my duty from a just appreciation of every circumstance by

which it might be effected. All I dare hope is, that if in executing this task, I have been too much swayed by a grateful remembrance of former instances, or by an affectionate sensibility to this transcendent proof of the confidence of my fellow-citizens, and have thence too little consulted my incapacity as well as disinclination for the weighty and untried cares before me; my *error* will be palliated by the motives which mislead me, and its consequences be judged by my country, with some share of the partiality in which they originated.

Such being the impressions under which I have, in obedience to the public summons, repaired to the present station, it would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act, my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being, who rules over the universe,—who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States, a government instituted by themselves for their essential purposes; and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to his charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large, less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the invisible hand which conducts the affairs of men, more than the people of the United States. Every step, by which they have advanced to the character of an independent nation,

seems to have been distinguished by some token of providential agency; and in the important revolution just accomplished in the system of their united government, the tranquil deliberations and voluntary consent of so many distinct communities, from which the event has resulted, cannot be compared with the means by which most governments have been established, without some return of pious gratitude along with an humble anticipation of the future blessings which the past seem to presage. These reflections, arising out of the present crisis, have forced themselves too strongly on my mind to be suppressed. You will join with me, I trust in thinking that there are none under the influence of which the proceedings of a new and free government can more auspiciously commence.

By the article establishing the Executive Department it is made the duty of the President "to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient." The circumstances under which I now meet you will acquit me from entering into that subject, farther than to refer to the great constitutional charter under which you are assembled, and which, in defining your power, designates the objects to which your attention is to be given. It will be more consistent with those circumstances, and far more congenial with the feelings which actuate me, to substitute in place of a recommendation of particular measures, the tribute that is due to the talents, rectitude and the patriotism which adorn the characters selected to devise and adopt them. In these honorable qualifications I behold the earnest pledges, that as on one side, no local

prejudices, or attachments; no separate views nor party animosities will misdirect the comprehensive and equal eye which ought to watch over this great assemblage of communities and interests. So, on another, that the foundations of our national policy will be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, and the pre-eminence of free government be exemplified by all the attributes which can win the affections of its citizens, and command the respect of the world. I dwell on this prospect with every satisfaction which an ardent love for my country can inspire. Since there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists in the economy and course of nature an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness, between duty and advantage, between the genuine maxims of an honest and magnanimous policy, and the solid rewards of public prosperity and felicity. Since we ought to be no less persuaded that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right, which Heaven itself has ordained; and since the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the Republican model of government are justly considered as *deeply*, perhaps as *finally* staked, on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people.

Besides the ordinary objects submitted to your care, it will remain with your judgment to decide how far an exercise of the occasional power delegated by the fifth article of the Constitution is rendered expedient at the present juncture, by the nature of objections which have been urged against

the system, or by the degree of inquietude which has given birth to them. Instead of undertaking particular recommendations on this subject, in which I could be guided by no lights derived from official opportunities, I shall again give way to my entire confidence in your discernment and pursuit of the public good. For I assure myself that whilst you carefully avoid every alteration which might endanger the benefits of an united and effective government, or which ought to await the future lessons of experience, a reverence for the characteristic rights of freemen, and a regard for the public harmony, will sufficiently influence your deliberations on the question how far the former can be more impregnably fortified, or the latter be safely and advantageously promoted.

To the preceding observations I have one to add, which will be most properly addressed to the House of Representatives. It concerns myself, and will, therefore, be as brief as possible. When I was first honored with a call into the service of my country, then on the eve of an arduous struggle for its liberties, the light in which I contemplated my duty required that I should renounce every pecuniary compensation. From this resolution I have in no instance departed. And being still under the impression which produced it, I must decline as inapplicable to myself, any share in the personal emoluments, which may be indispensably included in a permanent provision for the executive department, and must accordingly pray that the pecuniary estimates for the station in which I am placed may, during my continuance in it, be limited to such actual ex-

penditures as the public good may be thought to require.

Having thus imparted to you my sentiments as they have been awakened by the occasion which brings us together, I shall take my present leave, but not without resorting once more to the benign Parent of the human race, in humble supplication, that since He has been pleased to favor the American people with opportunities for deliberating in perfect tranquility, and dispositions for deciding with unparalleled unanimity on a form of government, for the security of their Union, and the advancement of their happiness; so His divine blessing may be equally *conspicuous* in the enlarged views, the temperate consultations, and the wise measures on which the success of this Government must depend.

Immediately after the delivery of his speech, President Washington, accompanied by the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and both houses of Congress, proceeded on foot to St. Paul's Church, where divine service suitable to the occasion was performed by the Right Reverend Dr. Provoost, Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the State of New York, and Chaplain to the Senate. From the church the attendants severally left for their respective homes.

The transparent paintings exhibited in various parts of the city in the evening have been equal at least to anything of the kind ever before seen in America. That displayed before the fort at the bottom of Broadway did great honor to its inventors and

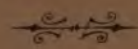
executors for the ingenuity of the design and goodness of the workmanship. It was finely lighted and advantageously situated. The Virtues—Fortitude (the President), Justice (the Senate), and Wisdom (the Representatives of the United States), were judiciously applied. Of the first all America has had the fullest evidence; and with respect to the two others, who does not entertain the most pleasing anticipations! His Excellency, Don Gardoqui's residence fixed the eye in pleasing contemplation, the whole forming a most brilliant front; the figures were well fancied; the graces suggested the best ideas, and the pleasing variety of emblems, flowers, shrubbery and arches, and, above all, the moving pictures that figured in the windows, or, as it were, in the background, by fixing the transparencies between the windows, afforded a new and enchanting spectacle. The residence of His Excellency Count Moustier was illuminated in a style of novel elegance; the splendid bordering of lamps around the windows and doors, with the fancy pieces in each window and the large designs in front did great honor to the taste and sentiment of the designer.

The portrait of General Washington exhibited in Broad Street was extremely well executed, and the transparency shown at the theatre and at the corner near the Fly Market was perfect in its purpose and parts. The illumination of the Congress Hall, in which the inauguration had taken place, is considered by many as the most agreeable of the exhibitions of the evening, while the ship Carolina formed a beautiful pyramid of stars. The evening has

been pleasant, the company innumerable, every one appears to have enjoyed the scene, and no accident has cast the smallest cloud upon the retrospect.

The President appeared at the inauguration dressed in a complete suit of homespun clothes; but the cloth was of so fine a fabric and so handsomely finished that it was universally mistaken for a foreign manufactured superfine cloth. The Vice-President also appeared in a suit of American manufacture, while several members of both houses were distinguished by the same token of attention to the manufacturing interest of their country.

ANNOUNCEMENT.



It is the intention of the proprietor of "PETER'S JOURNAL OF THE FIRST PRESIDENTIAL COUNT AND WASHINGTON'S INAUGURATION," to print at an early day,

THE PAMPHLET,

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in which topics of general interest to the public will be treated in an independent, unbiassed, and responsible manner. It will appear as the times and demands of the people require. Subscriptions for it will not be received. Persons desiring it will find copies for sale on the counters of all respectable booksellers and newsdealers, and due notice will be given of its publication.

THE PAMPHLET.

New York, February 14, 1885.